

Mrs Sue Harrison
Director for Children's Services/Executive Director of Education and Skills

To: Headteachers
All Birmingham Schools

2nd December 2021

Dear Headteacher

For those of you who I have not yet met, I am the new and permanent Director for Children's Services/Executive Director of Education and Skills. I am delighted to be in Birmingham and look forward to working with you all in partnership. I hope you have had the opportunity to virtually meet me by viewing my introductory video message.

We are all committed to improving our SEND services across Birmingham, and I want to reassure you that our 'Getting the basics right' improvement programme has begun and is built around a child focused, team around the school model. Of course, it is early days but as the academic year moves forward, we will be engaging with you more, continuing to listen and develop our partnership working.

If you have not already signed up for our SEND newsletter, you can do so by emailing Rachel.a.edwards@birmingham.gov.uk

One of our key pillars for improvement is our 'Working together well,' workstream which forms part of our Accelerated Action Plan. This work focuses on co-production with families as an area we know we need to improve.

To this end, we are inviting families to several co-production events across Birmingham in order to improve our engagement with them in this process and hear their views on co-production and also the Local Offer website.

I would be grateful if you would be willing to pass on the email sent with this letter, to all families in your school community inviting them to sign up for the engagement events this term. There will be further sessions held in the January and February next year, for which more details will be sent in the coming weeks.

The service is committed to improving its co-production in service design, and we really hope that families will want to be a part of shaping the future of SEND services in Birmingham.

With thanks in anticipation,

Sue Harrison

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